

U.S. Serial No. 09/980,068
Filed: November 28, 2001
Amendment and Response to Office Action dated 11/01/2005

REMARKS

This Amendment is a full and timely response to the Office Action dated November 1, 2005.

Claims 16-18 were withdrawn from consideration. Claims 1-15 and 19 have been amended, claims 20-27 have been cancelled, and new claims 28-36 have been added. Upon entry of the present amendment, claims 1-15, 19, and 28-36 will be pending in this application.

In the November 1, 2005 Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-15 and 19-27 and objected to claim 8. For the reasons set forth below, Applicants believe that the rejections and objection should be withdrawn and that the claims are in condition for allowance.

I. Claim Objections

The Examiner objected to claim 8 due to an informality. Claim 8 has been amended to depend from claim 3 to correct the informality.

II. Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner rejected claims 1-2, 6, 10 and 14-15 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent no. 6,017,123 (Bleha). Bleha discloses producing a tiled image by partially overlapping two images and the use of knife-edge masks and/or natural density filters to assist in blending the overlap region of the two images.

A. Claims 1-2, 6, 10, and 14

Claim 1 has been amended to more clearly define the invention. Bleha discloses use of masks or filters that absorb the light to achieve blending in the overlap region where all light that passes on through to the screen is not affected by the inserted mask. Bleha does not disclose relays for producing equalized images or a first reflective surface and a second

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reflective surface for combining images into a tiled image by partially overlapping the images as claimed in claim 1. Thus, every element of claim 1 is not disclosed or suggested by Bleha. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of claim 1.

Claims 2, 6, 10, and 14 depend from claim 1 and are patentable over Bleha for at least the same reasons as claim 1. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of claims 2, 6, 10, and 14.

B. Claims 15 and 32-36

Claim 15 has been amended to more clearly define the invention. Bleha does not disclose creating sub-images by superimposition and using the superimposed sub-images to create a tiled composite image as claimed in claim 15. The sections of Bleha pointed to by the Examiner (Figs.1-6, col. 3, line 36 to col. 4, line 3) for the concept of superimposition actually relate to tiling images with an overlap region and not superimposing images. Thus, every element of claim 15 is not disclosed or suggested by Bleha. None of the other cited references disclose or suggest the use of both superimposition and tiling to create a composite image. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of claim 15.

New claims 32-36 depend from claim 1 and are patentable over Bleha for at least the same reasons as claim 1.

III. Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

A. Claims 3-5, 7-8, 11, and 19

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The Examiner rejected claims 3-5, 7-8, 11, and 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bleha in view of U.S. Patent no. 5,400,966 (Uehira). Bleha is discussed above. Uehira discloses superimposing two or more images to increase the resolution of a projected image. Uehira teaches away from a composite tiled image by pointing out problems with seams and necessary projection lens size. (*See, e.g.*, col. 44-54.) Therefore, one of skill in the art would not be motivated to combine the teaching of Bleha and Uehira resulting in the claimed invention of any of the pending claims. Moreover, as discussed above, claim 1 is patentable over Bleha. As claims 3-5, 7-8, 11, and 19 are dependant on claim 1, claims 3-5, 7-8, 11, and 19 are patentable over Bleha and Uehira for at least the same reasons.

B. Claims 9 and 12-13

The Examiner rejected claims 9 and 12-13 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bleha in view of Uehira, and in further view of U.S. Patent no. 5,555,035 (Mead). As discussed above, claim 1 is patentable over Bleha. As claims 9 and 13 are dependant on claim 1, claims 9 and 13 are patentable over Bleha, Uehira, and Mead for at least the same reasons.

Claim 12 has been amended and is now an independent claim. As discussed above, Bleha discloses producing a tiled image by partially overlapping two images and the use of knife-edge masks and/or natural density filters to assist in blending the two images and Uehira discloses superimposing two or more images to increase the resolution of a projected image. Mead discloses creating a composite image by tiling multiple images. Bleha, Uehira, and Mead do not disclose either alone or in combination the use of polarized beam splitters to create composite images as claimed by claim 12. Thus, every element of claim

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12 is not disclosed or suggested by Bleha, Uehira, and Mead alone or in combination.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of claim 12.

New claims 28-31 depend from claim 12 and are patentable over Bleha, Uehira, and Mead for at least the same reasons as claim 12.

C. Claims 20-27

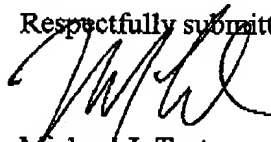
The Examiner rejected claims 20-27 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent no. 5,612,753 (Poradish) in view of Bleha. Claims 20-27 have been cancelled.

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CONCLUSION

The foregoing is submitted as a full and complete response to the Office Action of November 1, 2005. Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. If the Examiner believes that there are any issues that can be resolved by a telephone conference, or that there are any informalities that can be corrected by an amendment, please call 404 815 6061.

Respectfully submitted,



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